

SECTION Z

1951

This year we worked in the northwest corner of section Z, in an area bounded on the west by the Great Drain, on the south by the Middle Stoa, on the east by the edge of section Q, and on the north by the long east-west Late Roman wall. We removed the remaining piece of the so-called Byzantine wall, the rest of which had been demolished in 1947. We also took out a stretch of late Roman wall which ran diagonally across the area from north to south. The pottery from the wall showed that it belonged to at least the 3rd century A.D. and probably later, while pottery from a small martyra preserving the level of the floor used with the wall was very late Roman 5th-6th century A.D. and included a lamp with a cross on the discus.

Q, X pp. 1835 ff.,  
Z XVI p. 2984

Z p. 588;  
Q pp. 1573,  
1635 f.;  
Z XVI, p. 2943

Z XVI, pp. 2943 f.  
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tainer  
B 765

Levels.

Immediately in front of the Civic Offices, underlying an uneven layer of very late Roman fill (6th century A.D.) we came upon a hard road surface sloping to the north-west. A high road crown running from southwest to northeast indicated the main lines of traffic. The street is presumably of the 3rd century A.D. Further over toward the Great Drain the surface was considerably disturbed by slight water-washed streaks, and near the fork of the

Z XVI, pp.  
2958 ff.

Great Drain was a deep washout, filled with sand and gravel. The pottery from this gulley was 3rd century A.D. at the earliest. We found one coverslab of the Great Drain twisted sadly out of position, and a quantity of tumbled stones, presumably packing for a monument base. Apparently a notable flood had taken place. From the washout we recovered the herm S 1511 and the intriguing practice piece, the torso S 1510, and over 100 bronze coins.

#### Monument Bases

Z XVI, p. 2953  
phot. p. 2951

North of the gravel-filled washout we came upon a Turkish well which had cut through an early monument base, perhaps two bases. Two courses of soft, creamy poros remain, on east and west of the Turkish well, and a part of a block further south which does not line properly with former blocks. Thorough investigation of the monument was not undertaken this year.

© VIII,  
pp. 1618 ff.

The poros base which was discovered in 1936 belongs in this area, and should be noted, although we did nothing further with it this year. It seems to belong with the ground level surrounding it, and thus presumably dates to the 1st century A.D.

Northwest Corner of the Middle Stoa

Z XVI,  
pp. 3002 ff.

In the removal of a heavy layer of Herulian destruction debris the return of the terrace wall of the Middle Stoa was exposed. This return occurs 5.50 m. short of the west end of the Stoa, and leaves a hollow square at the southwest corner of the Agora. Thus the stepping back of the facade of the Civic Offices further north and east is a continuation of the allowance made for passage of traffic by the builders of the Stoa.

The western 6.65 m. of the Stoa terrace was built up solidly with large blocks, bonded with the north foundation of the Stoa itself, to form a massive foundation. This had been rifled in the 3rd century A.D. as was evident from the fact that many of its remaining blocks were pulled out of position, and the destruction fill went down among the tumbled blocks to the bottom of the foundation. The fill contained many terracottas, bits of glass, fragments of the upper structure of the Stoa, and quantities of 3rd century A.D. pottery. West of the return of the terrace wall this fill did not go down so deep, but stopped (ca. 0.10-0.15 m.) a few centimeters below the top of the existing blocks of the return of the wall, in a fair floor, considerably above the ground level that went with the stoa, and some blocks of a sturdy but not very carefully constructed foundation, with which the working floor may be associated.

ZVII,  
pp. 1320 f.

The heavy foundation at the west end of the terrace, clearly planned and built as an integral part of the stoa, as is shown by its bonding with the north foundation of the stoa, undoubtedly supported an impressive monument. The situation high over a main thoroughfare and facing the whole sweep of the market place, was an excellent display place.

Some time later the hollow corner was filled in, and the stepping back of the terrace face nullified, by a staircase giving access to the Stoa terrace. The carelessly constructed foundations here would serve well enough as the core of a stair. The date of this addition is still to be determined, but it seems probable that it was part of the Augustan building program. This program, by filling in the central part of the Agora with the Odeion, demanded some short cut across the south end of the Agora. The Doric propylon leading into the Tholos area belongs to this period, and the new stair goes well with it as part of a new system of traffic control at the southwest corner of the Agora.

The large monument on the terrace corner was, of course, demolished when the stair was built, if not before. Most of the blocks of the staircase are reused, and perhaps the two blocks of "Foundation F" come from the monument itself.

The Stoa and its western stair were destroyed in the Herulian invasion of 267 A.D. and the heavy monument base

Z VII,  
pp. 1320 ff.

and the foundation of the stair were rifted<sup>l</sup> - presumably for the Valerian wall. The fill that covered both foundations was the typical burnt destruction debris. Among the more interesting objects found in it were the terracotta mould Z 1784 (T 2404) depicting a scene from a comedy and inscribed Comedia Pylades, a terracotta figure of a plump draped gentleman Z 1786 (T 3074); a silver ring with a bone seal in it Z 1787 (J 125), fragments of the upper structure of the Middle Stoa Z 1816-1820 (A 1862-6). Many type XXVII lamps and miniature vases of the 3rd century A.D. were in the fill, and great quantities of bronze and iron nails.